

Zigula language

Zigula (Zigua, Chizigua) is a Bantu language of Tanzania and of Somalia, where it is known as **Mushunguli** (Mushungulu).^[4] It is best known for the Mushunguli dialect.

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Mushunguli

Mushunguli is spoken by about 23,000 people from the Bantu ethnic minority of southern Somalia, in Jamaame, Kismayo, Mogadishu, and the Juba River valley.^[5]

It shows affinities with other adjacent Bantu varieties. In particular, Mushunguli shares strong lexical and grammatical similarities with the language of the Zigua people who inhabit Tanzania, one of the areas in south-eastern Africa where many Bantu in Somalia are known to have been captured from as slaves during the 19th century.^[6] Ethnologue notes that the Mushunguli in Tanzania are the Wazegua.^[5]

Many Mushunguli Bantu men also speak as working languages the Afro-Asiatic Maay and Somali languages of their Somali neighbors.^[5]

Phonology

There is no official or traditional orthography for Mushunguli. However, spelling practices from related Bantu languages can easily be adopted to render the language with minimal phonetic diacritics.

Vowels

Zigula	
Mushunguli	
Native to	Tanzania, Somalia
Ethnicity	Zigula people, Somali Bantu
Native speakers	(380,000 cited 1993–2006) ^[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northeast Coast Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seuta<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zigula
Dialects	Mushunguli Zigula
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>ziw – Zigula</div> <div>xma – Mushunguli</div>
Glottolog	zigu1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/zigu1244) ^[2]
Guthrie code	G.31, 311 ^[3]

	Front	Back
High	ɪ	ʊ
Mid	ɛ	ɔ
Open	a	

Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Stop	plain	p	t	tʃ	k
	Implosive	ɓ	ɗ	ɟ	ɡ
Fricative	voiceless	f	θ ~ s	ʃ	
	voiced	v	ð ~ z		h
Approximant		w	l	j	
Flap			ɾ		

The fricatives [z] and [s] freely vary with [ð] and [θ], respectively.

Tone

Vowel length is not distinctive, but phonetic length is especially associated with falling tones as in *chîga* 'leg'. The tone system is similar to that of Tanzanian Zigua.^{[7][8]}

Notes

- Zigula (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ziw/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Mushungulu (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/xma/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Zigula-Mushungulu" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/zigu1244>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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- Declich, Francesca. 1995. "Gendered Narratives," History, and Identity: Two Centuries along the Juba River among the Zigula and Shanbara. *History in Africa* 22: 93-122.
- Ethnologue – Mushungulu (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=xma)
- Refugee Reports November 2002 Volume 23, Number 8 (http://www.refugees.org/data/refugee_reports/archives/2002/nov.pdf) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20091111104732/http://www.refugees.org/data/refugee_reports/archives/2002/nov.pdf) November 11, 2009, at the Wayback Machine
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- Kenstowicz, Michael. & Charles Kisseberth. 1990. Chizigua tonology: the word and beyond. In S. Inkelas & D. Zec(eds) *The phonology-syntax connection*, pp. 163-194. Chicago, IL:

Further reading

- Hout, Katherine, and Eric Bakovic. "To fuse or not to fuse: Approaches to exceptionality in Mushunguli (Somali Chizigula)." (2014).
- MacSaveny, Erin, and Erin MacSaveny. "Verbal tone in Chizigula." *Occasional Papers in Applied Linguistics* 5 (2009).
- Temkin Martinez, Michal, and Haley K. Boone. "On the presence of voiceless nasalization in apparently effaced Somali Chizigula prenasalized stops." *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 139.4 (2016): 2218-2218.

External links

- Online Mushunguli grammar and lexicon (<http://ling.osu.edu/~odden/mushunguli>)
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